

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Ferro Corp

New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program

Ferro Corporation Achieves Ergonomic Success With NJMEP

Client Profile:

Ferro Corporation manufactures colorants for the thermoset and thermoplastics industries and sells them to the general compounding and coatings industry. The company purchased Pigment Dispersions Incorporated (PDI) in 1992, adding it to Ferro's Performance Chemicals Division. Located in Edison, New Jersey, Ferro currently employs 50 people.

Situation:

Lorna Runkle, Field Agent for the New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, made a cold call to Ferro Corporation's Operations Manager, Tom Loschiavo. Runkle then completed a one-day business needs assessment and further recommended pursuing a state training grant to finance Ferro's Lean Manufacturing training and implementation assistance. She also coordinated a meeting between the client and third-party resource, Dr. One-Jang Jeng, who spent one day at the plant making observations and taking notes. Loschiavo and fellow Ferro representatives, Bill Purcell, Dave Malysa and Sherry Schuster, participated in the opening and closing meetings with NJMEP and Dr. Jeng. Numerous employees from various departments actively contributed to interviews, discussions, observations, photographs and recordings.

Solution:

Dr. Jeng presented Ferro Corporation with a full-scale report on its ergonomics situation, complete with a video and CD of photos. His report addressed areas of ergonomic concern, including potential cumulative trauma and musculoskeletal disorders. As a result, management became better equipped to investigate and propose solutions to improve existing conditions and take preventive measures for the future.

Results:

- * Received full-scale ergonomic report.
- * Improved working environment.
- * Reduced accident rate to zero.
- * Achieved 12-year lost-time, accident-free record as of May 2005.

Testimonial:

"The assessment was used as a training aid for reviewing safe procedures for lifting, and a good reminder on working as teams to handle heavy materials. It was also a confirmation of the effectiveness of the training and procedures we have implemented at the site over the past decade. It was a pleasure working with NJMEP. They brought fresh ideas to the business. I was not aware of the valuable resources that are available to us."

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Thomas J. Loschiavo, Operations Manager